

Community College Partnerships Support Workforce Development in Broader Middle East and North Africa

[Higher Education for Development](#) (HED), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the U.S. Department of Education, has announced four winners of the [Broader Middle East and North Africa \(BMENA\) – U.S. Community College Small Grants Initiative competition](#). The awards range from \$100,000 to \$150,000 each for 18-month partnerships between U.S. community colleges and community and technical colleges in the [BMENA](#) region.

The four winning partnerships are:

[Red Rocks Community College/AI-Huson University College/AI-Balqa Applied University \(Jordan\)](#): Expanding Jordan's Green Collar Workforce: An International Partnership to Establish an Associate Degree Program in Solar Energy Technology;

[Highline Community College/Mataria Technical College \(Egypt\)](#): Leveraging Community College Workforce Development Expertise: Creating Educational Pathways to High Skills Employment at Mataria Technical College;

[Gateway Technical College/Ecole Supérieure de Technologie Oujda \(Morocco\)](#): Automotive Diagnostics Training Partnership; and

[Eastern Iowa Community College District/Muscantine Community College/AI Quds College \(Jordan\)](#): Economic Empowerment through Entrepreneurship.

STEP Centers for Biological Sciences, Engineering, and Geosciences Competition Opens

The *America COMPETES Act* calls for efforts to increase the number of students completing undergraduate courses in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), including the number of non-majors, and to improve student academic achievement in STEM courses. The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program Centers (STEP Centers) provide an opportunity for the higher education community and other stakeholders to work toward these goals. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced a [funding opportunity](#), identifying \$6,000,000 to support STEP centers for biological sciences, engineering, and geosciences.

Community colleges are eligible to apply for these funds as long as they offer either associate degrees or baccalaureate degrees in STEM subjects. Projects are expected to include multiple academic institutions and may also involve business and industrial partners, professional societies, or other stakeholders. A single institution must submit the proposal and other partners may be sub-awardees. A letter of intent is due by August 4; a preliminary proposal is due by Sept. 7; and the full proposal must be submitted by Jan. 20, 2011.

ED Releases Guidance on Using AEFLA Funds for IET Programs

The U.S. Department of Education released [non-regulatory guidance](#) last week to help states use funds provided under the *Adult Education and Family Literacy Act* (AEFLA) to support integrated education and training (IET). The guidance describes how AEFLA instructional and state leadership funds, as well as funds available under Title I of the *Workforce Investment Act* (WIA), may be used to support IET. States with questions should contact Cheryl.Keenan@ed.gov.

Department of Labor (DOL) Career Video Challenge

[As noted by DOL](#), "in today's employment market, the publicly funded workforce-investment system has a major responsibility to maximize unemployed workers' opportunities for rapid re-employment by connecting them quickly to possible career paths." [The DOL Career Video Challenge](#) has been established to provide more information about the possibilities available to workers within a variety of careers. The challenge invites members of the public to produce and submit 1- to 3-minute videos focusing on the daily activities, necessary knowledge, skills and abilities, and career pathways of one of 15 eligible occupations. The deadline for submissions is Aug. 20, 2010.

"The projects funded under this program offer rich examples of the many points of intersection between our educational systems. They are also a testament to our common interest in delivering education and training programs that lead to jobs that offer family-sustaining wages and opportunities for career advancement and lifelong learning."

-Brenda Dann-Messier, OVAE assistant secretary